

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 /068 W

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P R 220657Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1632

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 1297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MU SA YS EG

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER; FOCUS ON PDRY

1. PRINCE SAUD, SAUDI FONMIN, CALLED ON SULTAN QABOOS AT SEEB NOV. 16 TO DISCUSS SAUDI NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN AIMED AT MODERATING PDRY POLICIES. ACCORDING TO OMANI MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, QAIS ZAWAWI, PRINCE SAUD BROUGHT THE SULTAN UP TO DATE AND WON HIS CAUTIOUS APPROVAL FOR GOING ON TO NEXT STAGE. ZAWAWI INDICATED PRINCE SAUD MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON HM AND OTHER OMANIS AND ADVISORS ENCOUNTERED.

2. DURING LULL IN OMAN'S PRESENT WEEK-LONG "NATIONAL DAY" PROGRAM, ZAWAWI TOLD ME PRINCE SAUD'S 24-HOUR INITIAL VISIT TO OMAN HAD GONE VERY WELL ON NOV. 16-17. KAMAL ADHAM CAME ALONG. SAUD HAD REVIEWED FOR SULTAN QABOOS SAG'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PDRY, PARTICULARLY WITH PRESIDENT SALIM RUBA'I ALI, AND HAD STRESSED THAT THE SAUDIS ARE KEEN TO FOLLOW THEM THROUGH TO POINT OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS AND PERMANENT PRESENCE IN

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ADEN. THIS, SAUD MAINTAINED, WOULD MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS MUCH

EASIER. SAUDI REITERATED FAMILIAR POSITION THAT SAUDIS ARE UNWILLING TO BEGIN BANKROLLING ADEN REGIME AND THEN HOPE FOR THE BEST IN TERMS OF PDRY MODERATION. INSTEAD, PDRY MIGHT BE GIVEN SPECIFIC, LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, PROBABLY 90 DAYS, TO DEMONSTRATE IT IS BACKING AWAY FROM SUPPORT FOR PFLO AND DHOFAR WAR, FOR EXAMPLE. ACCORDING TO ZAWAWI, SULTAN QABOOS GAVE HIS BLESSING TO CONTINUATION OF SAUDI EFFORTS BUT SUGGESTED THEY SPELL OUT CLEARLY THE STEPS PDRY MUST TAKE AND A TIME-TABLE FOR EACH.

3. PRINCE SAUD TOLD HM THAT ONE TIME FACTOR IMPELLING SAUDIS TO GET ON WITH THEIR TALKS WITH PDRY IS THE APPARENT PROGRESS BEING MADE IN US-PDRY CONTACTS LOOKING TOWARD RESTORATION OF RELATIONS. SAUDIS WISHED "TO BE FIRST." (AMBASSADOR NOTED TO ZAWAWI THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON US-PDRY CONTACTS BEYOND WHAT WAS PASSED ALONG IN EARLY OCTOBER.)

4. ZAWAWI MENTIONED THAT ASHRAF MARWAN'S VISIT TO MUSCAT IN EARLY NOVEMBER HAD NOT GONE SO WELL. THE PROPOSAL MARWAN CARRIED, FROM RUBA'I ALI, CALLING FOR A FULL OMANI MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM FOWARD POSITIONS IT HAS WON IN PAST MONTH IN WESTERN DHOFAR IN RETURN FOR WHICH PDRY WOULD MODERATE ITS OWN INVOLVEMENT IN DHOFAR STRUGGLE (AND FAILING WHICH IT WOULD HAVE TO "RETALIATE" FOR OMAN'S CROSS-BORDER AIR STRIKES) WAS LAUGHED OFF BY SULTAN QABOOS. HM POINTED OUT TO MARWAN THAT NOT ONLY WERE OMANI FORCES ENTIRELY WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS, BUT THAT IT WAS OMAN THAT HAD BEEN FORCED TO RETALIATE BY THESE AIR STRIKES AGAINST PDRY ARTILLERY WHICH HAD FIRED INTO OMANI TERRITORY OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS.

5. ZAWAWI SAID HE PLANNED TO MEET ARAB LEAGUE'S MAHMUD RIAD IN ABU DHABI NOV. 19 FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON PDRY, ITS RELATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD, DHOFAR WAR, ETC.
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